

Questions for Hal Riegger about the Craig Mountain Railroad.

1. Presumed that it was owned by the mill in Winchester. Is that correct?

The spur that served the mill belonged to the Craig Mountain Lumber Co. (the mill.)

The railroad from which the spur took off at Craig Junction, northeast of Winchester, was The Camas Prairie R.R.

2. What is the correct name of the mill? Craig Mountain Lumber Company.

3. When was the Railroad built? Finished in 1910 and in operation at that time, which was built during the final completion of the mill, as far as I have been able

to discover. The mill was going enough to saw the material for the railroad. (spur)

4. Any estimate of the cost? Not that I have been able to find out, but did hear

that it was built with the horse(or mule) and fresno system, I'm talking about the

spur in this instance, also. \* the spur + extended lines were an incorporated R.R. (Craig Mountain RR)

5. How long was it/ About four miles. That was the distance to the mill, but during

later timber cutting for the mill, it was extended many miles and several locations in the area around Cottonwood Butte in the forested area.

6. When was the railroad shut down? During the Great Depression from 1929 to early

1934. Final shut down was when the operation closed in 1965, and notice of the impending

/closure was made to the people during a Thanksgiving dinner given to the

townspeople in November of 1965 1964.

7. Does anyone know where its locomotives went after it closed?

one of

The best information I could come up with was that the two locomotives was sold

\* - Not quite correct. I just learned that the RR brought in the materials for the mill (machinery, etc.) - So I guess they both were built between 1908-1910.



to the Heishler Salvage Company and taken to the Black Hills. There was at least one other, I think, of the regular engines and several of the "pullers" which brought in the logs from the woods over the extended lines.

8. No information on what happened to passenger cars or other rolling stock it owned.
9. The names of engineers and conductors?

According to James Jacks of Craigmont, one engineer was Archie Drewett.

A Mr. Lum and a Mr. ~~Exlor~~ Taylor were firemen. Mr. Jacks said that another engineer, Seth Jones, just died a year or so ago. Mr. Jacks was a brakeman.

By doing some scouting around and following up leads when you are here this summer, I'm sure you can come up with more names. I simply do not have time to do this.

There has been no cost to me ~~in~~ in this except time. If I hear anything else I'll save it for later.

Again, I apologize for the lateness. See you when you come up.

*Helen.*

*Jacks can give you much more  
when you can visit with him.  
I suggest this rather than writing  
him - Your decision, though. Just  
Craigmont - 83543 is sufficient.*

*H.*